

Claims

1. A method for conducting electronic commerce, comprising the steps of:
identifying items on a web site;
registering on the web site an authorized individual associated with a customer;
5 placing order selections of the items from a non-authorized individual associated
with the customer in a sub tier electronic order;
holding the sub tier electronic order for approval by the authorized individual;
and
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in
10 response to approval by the authorized individual.
2. A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of registering on the
web site the non-authorized individual associated with the customer.
- 15 3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a
sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved
shopping cart.
4. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items available for
20 purchase comprises identifying parts available for purchase.
5. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items available for
purchase comprises identifying service contracts available for purchase.
- 25 6. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items available for
purchase comprises identifying equipment upgrades available for purchase.
7. A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of processing the
approved electronic order.
- 30 8. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items comprises
identifying items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility and wherein said non-

authorized individual comprises an engineer involved in the operation of said wafer fabrication facility.

9. A method for conducting electronic commerce, comprising the steps of:
5 identifying items available for purchase on a web site;
registering on the web site a buyer associated with a customer;
registering on the web site a non-buyer associated with the customer;
placing order selections of the items by the non-buyer in a sub tier electronic
order;
10 permitting the sub tier electronic order to be held for approval by the buyer;
permitting the buyer to generate an approved electronic order based on the sub
tier electronic order;
receiving the approved electronic order from the buyer; and
supplying items to the customer in accordance with the approved electronic order
15 received from the buyer.

10. A method as defined in claim 9 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a
sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved
shopping cart.

11. A method as defined in claim 9 wherein the step of identifying items comprises
identifying items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility.

12. A method for electronic ordering in a business entity, comprising the steps of:
25 authorizing a first individual associated with the business entity to place an order;
authorizing a second individual associated with the business entity to place order
selections in a sub tier electronic order; and
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in
response to approval by the first individual.

13. A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the step of authorizing a first individual
comprises the step of registering the first individual on a web site of a supplier.

14. A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved shopping cart.

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15. A method for processing an order on a web site, comprising the steps of:
placing order selections by a non-authorized individual associated with a customer in a sub tier electronic order; and
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in
10 response to approval received from an authorized individual associated with the customer.

16. A method as defined in claim 15 further comprising the step of registering on the web site the authorized individual associated with the customer.

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17. A method as defined in claim 15 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved shopping cart.

20 18. A method as defined in claim 15 further comprising the step of identifying on the web site items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility.

19. A method for processing an order on a web site, comprising the steps of:
registering on the web site an authorized individual associated with a customer;
25 placing order selections by a non-authorized individual associated with the customer in a sub tier electronic order; and
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in
response to approval received from the authorized individual.

30 20. A method as defined in claim 19 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved shopping cart.

21. A method as defined in claim 19 further comprising the step of processing the approved electronic order.

5 22. A method as defined in claim 19 further comprising the step of identifying on the web site items available for purchase.

23. A method as defined in claim 19 further comprising the step of identifying on the web site items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility.

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24. Apparatus for conducting electronic commerce comprising:
means for registering on a web site an authorized individual associated with a customer;
means for placing order selections by a non-authorized individual associated with
15 the customer in a sub tier electronic order; and
means for converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in response to approval received from the authorized individual.